

Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

Boise, Idaho

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News

As previously stated, regular publication of the **Idaho Trade Token Newsletter** will halt with the next issue. Not for lack of material, I can assure you; rather for lack of time to assemble the articles. Each token has a tale to tell, it is just that some of them are less willing to share their story than others. Every historical researcher has seen and copied a lot of information - the trick is being able to assemble it as necessary without fumbling through a lot of notes. One of my major projects in the near future is getting my handwritten notes into my computer so I can search it easily.

Here's a couple of "leftover" items. In the recent story of the Leerights in Idaho, I mistakenly said that the daughter, Betty, was born in Idaho. Instead, she was the oldest child and was born in Illinois. Secondly, Dean Rasmussen pointed out that "U. S. Saperators" was a brand name of cream separators rather than a harvesting machine as I had supposed.

Rexburg 2000

Dean Rasmussen and Kendall Ballard are busily planning for our gathering in the Rexburg area during July, 2000. I don't have the planned date at hand, but will get that information to you next issue. It probably will be Friday, July 21 and Saturday, July 22. Kendall suggested we all chip in to rent a large-capacity van (like an airport or retirement home shuttle), so we will be able to hear the same story as we visit local sites of interest. I think that is a great idea!

Token Research

Background material on token-using businesses comes from many sources. The R. G. Dun Company and the Bradstreet Mercantile Agency separately in early years, and combined as the Dun & Bradstreet Company in later years, sent canvassers into the villages, towns and cities of North America. They checked as many business owners as possible to get an indication of their net worth and credit worthiness. The results were published in directories published quarterly. The R. L. Polk and other "City Directory" companies published yearly compilations of residents and businesses of the larger towns. The Polk company also published a number of statewide gazetteers in the early years. Telephone directories round out the list of directories of use to researchers.

Newspapers are another great source of information. Fortunately in Idaho, a campaign was made to microfilm all of the various holdings of papers, so there is a good representation from all parts of the state available. The unfortunate part is that many of the small town and defunct papers were destroyed over the years. Many of the papers, especially from the early years, show rodent, water, or fire damage. Some of the filming is of poor quality, but overall the newspapers are valuable resources. They contain advertisements, notices of business changes, personal notes about members of the community. The difficulty with using papers is that only a few years of a few papers have been indexed, so finding something of value can be a tedious process. "Special Editions" of papers are rare, but they are great sources of information. Business histories are often a large part of these editions, and I have found many pieces of information there. Often photographs of a businessperson or the early beginnings of a store are shown in these historical sketches

Idaho census listings are helpful and available for 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920. They have been indexed, but only provide personal data, not business names. Additionally, many Idaho cemeteries have been indexed, but only on a "per cemetery" basis (Ada County is the only county with a county-wide index). Cemetery indexes often also provide tombstone data, so if a person's death date was on the tombstone, it can be used to search local newspapers for an obituary to get additional information.

The "official records" such as license applications, contracts, agreements, etc. as filed in the county courthouses give other clues about a business history. Personal interviews with persons connected with a business owner can also help. Family members can be located through obituary information, and "old timers" in an area often recall elusive facts.

Hor(e)nberger Brothers

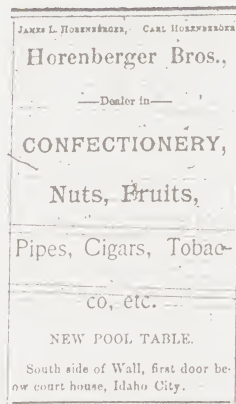
A recent metal-detecting expedition to the Boise Basin recovered a HORNBERGER BROS. / IDAHO CITY, / IDAHO. // GOOD FOR / 10¢ / IN TRADE token from the earth. This 21mm round brass piece can be dated to the very short interval of March 20 through October 9, 1912. This dating was done with the aid of the **Idaho World** where it was reported in the March 22, 1912 issue that "L. M. Maxfield sold the stock of his cigar store and pool table to James and Carl Horenberger, who will continue business in the same building occupied by Mr. Maxfield. The Horenberger brothers took charge Wednesday evening [March 20, 1912]."



The April 12, 1912 issue carried the first ad for the Horenberger Brothers (that is the correct

spelling; the token is in error). This ad continued through the October 11, 1912 issue when a news

article stated "Carl Horenberger, who has been engaged in the confectionery business at this place in partnership with his brother James, left last Wednesday [the 9th] for Boise where he will again work at his trade, which is steam fitting." The ad was subsequently modified to show James' name only. He continued in business for another year. The October 24, 1913 **Idaho World** reported that "J. W. Yocum last Monday purchased James Horenberger's confectionery store on Wall Street.



Carl Horenberger retired to Twenty Nine Palms, California and outlived his brother. The **Idaho Sunday Statesman** of September 20, 1953 reported on the death of James Lewis Horenberger, 71, of Helena, Montana. James went into mining after leaving the confectionery business, staying in the Boise Basin until about 1938 when he moved to Helena. His death came on September 16, 1953 while visiting his daughter in Seattle. He was buried in Boise.

Frank d'Amant

Quite a few years ago I bought a Frank S. d'Amant maverick token at a Boise flea market, having a soft spot in my heart (head?) for mavericks. I thought no more of the piece until Don MacBride listed a piece just like it in an ATCO mail bid, attributing it to Pearl, Idaho. I inquired

of Don what his reference was to support this attribution, but only got something along the lines of "it came with other tokens from Pearl and an 'old-timer' said it was from Pearl."

Since then I have done a fair amount of looking through papers and records, but have only found sketchy information on him at Pearl, compared to his time in Boise. A newspaper was published at "Emmett and Pearl" during the mining town's boom days, but I have never located any copies. Bits and pieces of news from Pearl appeared in the Emmett, Boise, Idaho City, Nampa, and Caldwell papers, so the story of Frank d'Amant is a "work in progress".



Idaho State Historical Society MS413/3

The earliest record I have found to date is the 1900 Idaho census where Frank S. Dement was counted as a lodger with Barney Coleman at 616 Main Street in Boise. The census indicates that he was born in England in March of 1874 (though records at Boise's Morris Hill Cemetery shows he was born in 1870), came to the United States in 1894, and became a naturalized citizen. His occupation was shown as salesman at a liquor store, presumably that of Coleman. Barney H. Coleman & Co. (Coleman and Harry M. Hughes) was listed in the 1899 Boise Directory as being in the wholesale liquor business at 616 Main Street. The 1901-02 directory shows their address as 610 Main Street.

The next reference I have found is from the report in the October 16, 1900 **Idaho World** of Idaho City where the Boise County Commission approved the liquor bond of Frank S. Dament and issued a retail liquor license to him. The record does not show the location, but Pearl was within Boise County boundaries at that time. I have not found liquor

licenses issued to him for any subsequent years in Boise County. The **Emmett Index** of December 15, 1904 noted in the "From Busy Pearl" column that "Frank Dament is building a business house across the street from his old house." Quite often newspapers were vague about the nature of businesses, especially saloons.



The maverick token d'Amant issued is 24mm sq br: FRANK S. / DAMANT // GOOD FOR / 5 / ¢ / IN TRADE It is known to me in two examples.

Frank d'Amant returned to Boise in about 1906 as the mining activity in Pearl decreased. The Polk's Boise City Directories list d'Amant (spelled about every way

imaginable) as running the Exchange Bar at 829 Main Street from 1908 to 1910. The directories suggest that d'Amant sold the Exchange Bar in 1911 to his bartender, Frank D. Kernan, and went to a different saloon at 708 Main. The 1912-13 Idaho Gazetteer shows d'Amant as keeping a saloon at 827 Main plus having a second hand store at 1009 Main, but the 1912-13 Boise directory lists d'Amant as a rancher. In 1914 and 1915 d'Amant and Kernan are shown as partners in the Exchange Bar at 913 Main.



The partnership also issued a maverick, probably dating from 1914-15. It is 29mm s8 al: EXCHANGE / D'AMANT & KERNAN // GOOD FOR / 2½¢ / IN TRADE Only one of these is known to me.

Frank d'Amant married Ella Mae Innis on October 31, 1909. They made their home at 414 Washington until 1944 when they moved to 417 Jefferson. Mae was deeply involved in civic works and Boise society. Among other activities, she was President of the Womens Relief Corps of the Phil Sheridan Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. In 1931 she helped organize a tree-planting ceremony in Boise's Julia Davis Park. Each of the many civic groups planted a tree, most of which are still standing. Mae was the first donor of money to plant trees along the Boise River Greenbelt. When she moved from her home at 417 Jefferson, she donated her rose garden of some 100 bushes to the City to establish the Rose Garden in Julia Davis Park and to surround the statue in Stunenberg Park. During the Boise City Centennial in 1963, Mae d'Amant was recognized with a Pioneer certificate.

In the Idaho Historical Library and Archives, I found an interesting file of the papers of Ella Mae Innis d'Amant. While reading the files and looking at the photographs, a piece of history really struck home with me. On the back of a photo of Mae d'Amant in her rose garden was written "the houses across the street were torn down in 1968 to make way for the Idaho Supreme Court building". That building is across the street from the Historical Library! It took a minute for me to get my bearings, but I quickly determined that the d'Amant house at 417 Jefferson Street was on the south side of the court building; the library is on the east side of that block. At any rate, their house had been torn down and the lot is now parking for the apartment building on the corner of 5th and Jefferson. I have walked past that lot almost daily for 20 years—now it has special meaning to me.

After Prohibition closed down his saloon, Frank d'Amant took up farming. In the summer of 1936 he ran for Ada County Commissioner in the Republican primary election, but was beaten by another contender. At a gathering of 25-year-plus members of the Elks Lodge in the mid-1940s, Frank d'Amant was recognized as being the oldest living member, having joined the Elks in about 1892 (here there may be a conflict in information as he supposedly did not come to this country until 1894). His obituary in the December 10, 1946 **Idaho Statesman** stated that he had been a resident of Boise for 40 years, living prior to that in Pearl when it was a thriving mining town.

Idan-Ha

Dean Rasmussen reminded me of the earlier Idan-Ha Hotel in Soda Springs. The full story will have to wait for another time, but suffice it to say that the IDAN-HA and IDAM-HA mavericks may well be from this location, as the hyphenated version of the word was often used in connection with this Idan-Ha Hotel and the Idan-Ha Bottling Works.



This fine hotel was dedicated on August 12, 1887 with a ceremony conducted jointly by Governors Edward Stevenson of Idaho and Caleb West of Utah. Managed by Christopher T. Woodall and his son, Delmar, the hotel proved uneconomical to run year-around, so in the later years it was operated as a "summer resort" from May through October 15. It was closed after 1903 and remodeled into apartments. Stills in the basement were rumored to be the source of a June 7, 1921 fire that burned the elegant Idan-Ha to the ground.

The token I believe to be from the bar in the Idan-Ha Hotel is one of the more intriguing pieces from the state. If I am correct, it carries two errors, one in the middle initial of the proprietor and the other in the state. Of course, much of southeastern Idaho is often considered to be in Utah, but I think the die maker in this case was just not thinking straight when he made the die. C. F. WOODALL / SODA / SPRINGS, UTAH. // 5¢ / IN TRADE 21mm rd ni. It is known in about 5 examples.

James Hunsucker

Non-maverick Idaho Brunswick tokens are pretty scarce, but the history of the issuer of this one is just about as difficult to find. He placed this advertisement in the November 15, 1907 issue of the **Middleton Herald**. The **Herald** of December 27, 1907 stated "Several changes have been made recently to James Hunsucker's [sic] pool hall. A new mahogany table has been installed, making in all, two fine pool tables. A new counter and new linoleum on the floor makes a great improvement."

The January 3, 1908 issue stated "James Hunsucker was in Boise today. He is contemplating taking a trip to Salt Lake City or Portland in the near future. The latest improvement in the pool room of James Hunsucker is an elegant 'Peerless' electric piano which cost \$650. It is a handsome instrument. Mr. Hunsucker is doing things up brown and this must bespeak for a healthy, enterprising establishment."

In the column "What Nemo Saw on his Travels Through the City", appearing in the April 24, 1908 issue, we can read more about this business. "We now cross the Willow Creek road and enter the tobacconist's store, where you can buy all sorts of smoking materials - cigars, smoking tobaccos, and any brand of chewing tobacco can be had. The enterprise is run by Jas. Hunsucker, who is a congenial and pleasant fellow well met. His pool room furnishes amusement and exercise for those who enjoy the recreation and those wishing to learn the art."



Unfortunately, the trail of this man ends at this point. The Middleton newspaper archives have a large gap from June of 1908 through 1912. No indication is seen in 1913 and beyond that Hunsucker is still in the area. This is supported by the fact that he was not enumerated in the 1910 Idaho census. Here, as with many token issuers, we only know small bits of the story. Where did this fellow come from and where did

he go??? The token is 25mm brass and known to me in three examples. I have a special interest in this issuer as he is quite possibly related to my wife's mother's family, although they spelled the name "Honsicker".

Earl Hutchings

One thing about historical research: valuable but unexpected tidbits are found by chance as often as they are the result of organized searching. I have turned many miles of newspaper film through microfilm readers, and have formed the habit of scanning the headlines and ads. While researching Frank d'Amant, I happened to stop on **The Idaho Statesman** of July 2, 1936. The ad that caught my eye only was in that single issue, but it answered questions about the owner and date of the Sportland in Boise. Previous to this discovery, I had found no information on the business other than the two known token varieties and a die for a third.

A quick check of the Ada County cemetery index led me to Hutchings' obituary - he died just over a month after opening the Sportland. The **Idaho Statesman** for August 10, 1936

J. HUNSICKER
CIGARS
CANDIES
SOFT DRINKS
POOL HALL
Main Street Middleton

SPORTLAND
OPENS TODAY AT
9th and Main Sts.
Earl Hutchings, Proprietor
Formerly of Earl's Place
710 Main St
<small>That same fine cold beer that made Earl's Place famous. Come in tomorrow, see our new place.</small>
YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME

carried the obituary. "Earl Alvin Hutchings died Saturday morning [8/8/36] at the family apartment, 915½ Main Street. Mr. Hutchings was born November 12, 1882 in Utah and for the past 35 years had lived in Boise. He was the owner of the Sportland Cigar store at Ninth and Main streets." A check of the Polk's Boise City Directories showed him as boarding with his parents from 1902 through 1908. In 1909 he was shown as being a clerk for A. T. Lewis, owner of a cigar factory and the Elite Cigar Store. 1911 showed him as being a "marker" for E. M. Rogers' billiard hall (I wonder what that occupation entailed). Hutchings continued as a clerk with no employer listed until the 1917 through 1919 directories where he is shown as clerking for Sake & Mendell's (sic) cigar and pool business at 701 Main Street. These owners were Harry E. Sake and William G. Mendel, issuers of the Mendel Cigar Store tokens listed as #BO-34. On February 17, 1919, Earl Hutchings wed Bertha Hognestad in Mountain Home.

The 1921 Bradstreet shows "Sake, Mendell, & Hutchings - cigars & billiards" and the 1921 Polk's City Directory shows him as proprietor of the Elite Billiard Parlor and, with Harry Sake, owners of the Bouquet Fountain at 821 Main. This time period evidently was one of much change for Hutchings as he elevated himself from clerk to proprietor as some of his old employers left the picture. More research is definitely needed to find what happened to them, but one notable event, the opening of the Bouquet, happened this year.

1923 showed the Elite Cigar Store as being owned by Antone Vezques; Hutchings was the lone proprietor of the Bouquet Fountain. In 1929 the Polk listing changed to the Boquet (from Bouquet) and the Havana Club at 819½ Main was shown for the first time with the Hutchings as owners. The 1930 directory listings show Hutchings sold the Boquet to Fred Bailey and Robert King who started calling it the Bouquet once more. Hutchings is not shown with a business, but it may have been the Havana Club as it is listed as being managed by Tut Chaplin. This listing possibly should be Tut Camblin, owner of several similar businesses.

The 1932 directory is the first listing for Earl's Place, soft drinks and cigars, at 712 Main Street, the business that continued until July, 1936. It was sold to Tony Amoto and Nicholas Bilboa who renamed it the White House Cigar Store. Typical of businesses of this type, there was a lot of "churn", and the tokens we now have are among the few surviving artifacts.

There are only two of the 23mm round aluminum Earl's Place tokens known to me, although dies are known for two larger tokens.



I believe that the Sportland lived on after Hutchings' death, either with his wife running it or under different ownership. The well-known Sportland token, #BO-70, and a similar piece known from the die only, are both of Salt Lake Stamp Company origin. This piece is from the Osborne Register Company of Cincinnati, Ohio as shown by the small letters on the reverse. It is 29mm brass and is known in one example. The business was not long-

enough lived to need to reorder tokens, and I believe this is the one used by Hutchings.

Best regards,

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